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INTELLOFAX 35

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25X1A2g

Country: India

Subject: Match Factory in Dhubri/Tea Estate
in Assam.DATE 23 June 53

25X1A9a

Place Acquired: Bihar/Assam

SUPPLEMENT TO: _____

Date Acquired: [REDACTED] 25X1A6a

RESPONSIVE TO: _____

Date of Info: Apr 53 and earlier

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1. The Swedish match factory, which is located near the town of Dhubri, Bihar, India, is owned and operated by Swedish nationals. It is located about one-quarter mile northwest of the town, which has a population of approximately 6,000 people. The factory is a subsidiary of the Western India Match Company which has other factories in the following places: Bombay, Berielly, Calcutta, and Madras. It is managed by a Swede who has South Indian engineers working under him. The laborers are all natives, who cut the timber in the near-by forests, and do the work in the factory.
2. Whereas the management changes periodically, the ownership has remained under Swedish control since its establishment by Ivar Krueger, the Swedish match "king", some years ago. The matches produced by this factory are sold throughout India, and there is an excise tax to the Indian Government of 50 cents for every dollar's worth of matches sold.
3. The tea estate which I managed is located in Mornai, Assam, at the foot of the Himalayan mountains. Our mission has owned and operated this tea estate since 1890, and it yields a fair net income each year, which goes to the support of our other mission activities. This estate is also the center of a large and flourishing Christian community. It includes 500 acres, all devoted to tea growing, and 500 acres in tung oil (Chinese wood oil), and we employ between about 700 workers, mostly Santals and Mundas.

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